

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: TURKEY AND CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS

1. THE BEGINNING OF THEHTTH ROUND OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS
IN VIENNA FEBRUARY 17 HAS NOT OCCASIONED MUCH TURKISH PRESS
COMMENT OR PUBLIC SPECULATION BY TURKISH POLITICAL FIGURES.
IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE MOOD IN TURKEY HAS GENERALLY
BEEN SLIGHTLY OPTIMISTIC, FED BY THE NOTICEABLE ABSENCE
OF NEGATIVE STATEMENTS BY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND BY AN
APPARENTLY COORDINATED PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN OF THE
GOT AND THE TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS (TFSC.) AS A FINAL
STEP IN THIS CAMPAIGN, THE GOT ANNOUNCED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT
ANOTHER CONTINGENT OF TURKISH TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM
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CYPRUS ON FEBRUARY 17. (THIS IS NOT A NEW WITHDRAWAL, BUT PART OF THE 2,000 ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH).

2. TURKISH-CYPRIOT LEADER, RAUF DENKTASH, STOPPING THROUGH TURKEY ON HIS WAY TO VIENNA, HAS MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS WHICH ARE UNFORTUNATELY NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE VIENNA TALKS, BUT ARE CLEARLY DESIGNED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION BOTH HERE IN TURKEY AND IN CYPRUS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, DENKTASH SAID THAT THE CLAIM THAT 40 PERCENT OF TERRITORY ON CYPRUS IS IN TURKISH HANDS IS SIMPLY GREEK PROPAGANDA. HE SAID THAT 33 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND'S TERRITORY IS NOW IN TURKISH HANDS AND THIS COINCIDES WITH THE PERCENTAGE OF TERRITORY THAT WAS ACTUALLY OWNED BY TURKS 15 YEARS AGO. DENKTASH SAID THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT, THE BOUNDARIES COULD BE ADJUSTED IF THERE WERE AGREEMENT ON BIZONALITY AND POWERS. "WE CAN MAKE SOME ADJUSTMENTS. IF THERE IS AN AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN VIENNA, A COMMISSION WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS UPON OUR RETURN TO CYPRUS." DENKTASH THEN WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT FROM 1950 TO PRESENT TIME, MAKARIOS AND THE GREEKS ON CYPRUS HAD BUT ONE DESIRE: TO ESTABLISH A SECOND GREEK REPUBLIC IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. HE SAID IN ORDER TO BRING THIS ABOUT, THEY TRIED ERSRY MEANS TO RID THE A LAND OF TURKS, AND THOUSANDS OF TURKS WERE FORCED TO LEAVE CYPRUS. HE SAID THE POWER BALANCE HAD NOW SHIFTED, HOWEVER, AND TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WERE DETERMINED TO SAFEGUARD THEMSELVES FROM FUTURE SUCH GREEK ACTIONS.

3. DENKTASH REPEATED THE THEME THAT AT VIENNA 3 THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAD AGREED TO A BIZONAL FEDERATION AND A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF LIMITED AUTHORITY, BUT THEY HAD RENEGED ON THAT AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS WERE PLANNING TO COME TO VIENNA 5 WITH A PROPOSAL FOR A MULTIPLE CANTONAL FEDERATION. DENKTASH SAID THAT THE AUTHORITY THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY HIS PEOPLE AND BY THE TFSC ASSEMBLY DOES NOT INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF AMULTIPLE CANTONAL SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT HISTORY AND RECENT EVENTS SHOW THAT A BIZONAL FEDERATION IS THE APPROPRIATE SYSTEM AND THAT WITHIN THIS SYTEM BOTH PARTIES SHOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL RIGHTS.

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4. HURRIYET FEBRUARY 17 CLAIMS THAT ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE IN NICOSIA, MAKARIOS HAS GIVEN CLERIDES AUTHORITY AT VIENNA 5 TO ACCEPT (AT THE LAST MOMENT) A BIZONAL FEDERATION IN RETURN FOR TURKISH AGREEMENT TO RETURN VAROSHA TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT ZONE.

5. THE MURDER OF A TURKISH DIPLOMAT IN BEIRUT ON THE

EVE OF VIENNA 5 SEEMS CERTAIN TO HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE,
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION AS VIENNA 5 GETS
UNDERWAY. ALTHOUGH THERE IS AS YET NO EVIDENCE TO IMPLICATE
EOKA-B OR ANY OTHER GROUP IN THE MURDER, TURKS WILL BE
QUICK TO SUSPECT THAT IN FACT IT WAS THE WORK OF GREEK-1'
CYPRIOTS. INDICATIVE OF THIS ATTITUDE, AN MFA OFFICIAL
MORNING FEBRUARY 17, WHILE CONFIRMING DETAILS OF THE
INCIDENT, VOLUNTEERED THAT IT WAS CLEARLY A POLITICAL ACT.
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